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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
.09/506,534	02/17/2000	Nobuyuki Kaneko	FUJA 17.073	7489

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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

15

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/506,534

Applicant(s)

KANEKO ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/29/04 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18 and 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 and 8-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (5,710,591) and Morgan (4,977,449) in view of Sagawa (5,734,923).

Regarding claim 20, Bruno discloses a video telecommunication system comprising: a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each of which is provided with a camera (fig.1, element 20 is a camera that is located in each station or apparatus 12, where each station computer can transmit information out), a video reception apparatus

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with a monitor for receiving and displaying video information sent from each camera (fig.1, element 14 is a monitor located at each station 12, where each station computer can receive and display information), and a network over which each of the plurality of video transmission apparatuses is connected to the video reception apparatus (fig.1, element 26 is a network connecting all the workstations 12a-12c), further comprising:

a character information receiver unit for receiving, through a switch control path on the network, character information from a video information describing unit which sends a switch command for one of the plurality of cameras, simultaneously sends character information describing the video information of the camera in accordance with the switch command, and makes the monitor display the video information and the character information (col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference; also in col.6, ln.40-46, Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively);

a decoding unit for converting the video information received through the video path on the network to analog video information (see fig.1 and note that the monitors

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14a, 14b and 14c are connected to the same network, and that information transmitted can be observed at each workstation, thus, clearly the information is decoded otherwise the multimedia conference would not be possible); and

a display combining unit for combining the character information from the character information receiver unit with the video information from the decoding unit and outputting the result to the monitor (col.6, ln.40-46; Bruno discloses that each conference participant user from each workstation 12a-12c can have textual or character information simultaneously associated with the video feed as one can observe in Bruno's figure 1, where at workstation 12a, there is a camera 20a for permitting the users from 12b and 12c to simultaneously see the user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively, and there is a keyboard 16a to input textual or character information so as to simultaneously inform the other users from 12b and 12c to see what is being typed in by user at 12a on their display screens 14b and 14c, respectively; thus, Bruno discloses the display combining unit).

Although Bruno does not specifically disclose a configuration of providing a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center, however, Morgan teaches the configuration of providing a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center (col.2, ln.35-45 and col.3, ln.48-64; Morgan's fig.3 discloses the use of a demodulator 58 at a central location or a supervisory center, where one or more monitors 60, at the central location, can be

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implemented for viewing image data from multiple cameras and that the images from these cameras can be switched if desired). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Bruno and Morgan as a whole for permitting the viewing of plural images obtained by multiple sources. Doing so would minimize equipment costs and space requirements so as to provide a highly efficient system usable in numerous remote video camera operations (col.2, ln.41-45).

Bruno and Morgan do not disclose the monitor display of the video information combined with the character information in a simultaneous manner. However, Sagawa teaches the monitor display of the video information combined with the character information in a simultaneous manner (fig.47, Sagawa discloses the display of video information 4701 simultaneously with the character information 4702 to elaborate on the scene of the video information 4701, and note fig.46 discloses the synthesis of the text information 4607 and the image information 4606 in a simultaneous manner at the layout device 4610 which goes to the output monitor). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Bruno, Morgan and Sagawa, as a whole, for providing an output device to display all of the vital information of the video image information to all people, especially the hearing impaired handicapped people, to easily understand the situation of the image information being displayed (Sagawa col.2, ln.58-61).

Note claims 1, 3-5, 8-9 and 11-19 have similar corresponding elements.

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Regarding claim 2, Bruno discloses the switching command for the camera to the transmission apparatus (col.6, ln.1-18; Bruno discloses the switching signal, generated by element 26, for switching to the user to initiate the multimedia conference).

Regarding claims 10 and 21-22, Bruno discloses the character information alteration unit (fig.1, elements 16a-16c are keyboards that permit the alteration of character information).

1. Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (5,710,591), Morgan (4,977,449), and Sagawa (5,734,923) in view of Larson (5,541,640).

Regarding claims 6-7, Bruno, Morgan and Sagawa do not disclose the use of MPEG video encoding standard for video compression and decompression. However, Larson teaches that MPEG encoding/decoding techniques can be use in the teleconferencing environment (col.16, ln.64 to col.17, ln.6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the teachings of Bruno, Larson and Sagawa, as a whole, for applying MPEG compression so as to accurately, efficiently encode image data while maintaining high image quality. Doing so would save financial costs.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (703) 306-5978. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Allen Wong
Examiner
Art Unit 2613

AW
9/28/04